

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

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DRAFTED BY: AEC:IP:ADSMP:DBHOYLE

APPROVED BY: SCI:HDBREWSTER

AEC:IP:D:ASFRIEDMAN

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJ: EEI ENRICHMENT STUDY GROUP

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1530

1. WE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY SURPRISED THAT EEI GROUP, REPRESENT-
ING U.S. UTILITIES, SHOULD FAVOR POLICY OF RESERVING AS MUCH
OF AEC'S EXISTING ENRICHMENT CAPACITY AS POSSIBLE FOR ITS OWN
USE, SINCE SUCH POLICY WOULD BE IN UTILITIES SELF-INTEREST.
HOWEVER, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT POTENTIAL PRIVATE
ENRICHERS IN THE U.S. SHARE THIS VIEW, SINCE SUCH A POLICY WOULD
BE EXPECTED TO DISADVANTAGE THEIR EXPECTED EFFORTS TO PENETRATE
EXPORT MARKET. OF COURSE, AS MISSION AWARE, THERE ALSO IS SOME
BODY OF U.S. OPINION, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT,
WHICH FEELS THAT WE SHOULD REDUCE OR LIMIT FOREIGN UTILIZATION
OF OUR ENRICHMENT FACILITIES, SINCE THIS ACTIVITY MAY BE LOOKED
UPON AS "EXPORT" OF U.S. ENERGY SUPPLIES. NONETHELESS, USG
POLICY CONTINUES TO BE THAT U.S. SALES OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES
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ABROAD, WHETHER BY USG OR PRIVATE ENRICHERS, SHOULD BE ENCOUR-

AGED, SINCE SUCH SALES MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO FAVORABLE
US BALANCE OF TRADE AND THE ENERGY EXPORT IMPACT, RELATIVE TO
THESE ECONOMIC BENEFITS, IS MINIMAL.

2. WITH REGARD PROSPECTIVE EUROPEAN ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS SUBJECT
TO AEC JUNE 30 DEADLINE, WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON CURRENT
STATUS OF INQUIRIES AND MISSION'S ASSESSMENT AS TO LIKELIHOOD
OF SUCH CONTRACTS.

3. ON QUESTION OF SALES OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES BY EUROPEAN
ENRICHERS TO US UTILITIES, MATTER NOW UNDER EXTENSIVE STUDY.
IN VIEW COMPLEXITY AND POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE, WE EXPECT IT WILL
TAKE AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE DECISION REACHED. AS OF NOW,
WE COULD NOT EVEN HAZARD EDUCATED GUESS AS TO PROBABLE OUTCOME.
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